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## **COMMENTS ON ANTI-NEW YORK TIMES MEASURE**

**HON. DAVID R. OBEY  
OF WISCONSIN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
JUNE 28, 2006**

Mr. Chairman, I am one of those

Members of the House who wants the administration to track bank records and financial transactions of terrorist groups or individuals who are suspected of belonging to terrorist groups. That is why, while I had great misgivings about the original PATRIOT Act, I voted for it because I wanted to see a tightening up of our ability to go after those records. But I wanted it to be done in a legal fashion, in a way which guarantees the privacy and civil liberties of people who do not fall into that category.

I note the fact that there is a very

strong similarity between the Communist Chinese Government and our own administration in one respect. I have two headlines in my hand here. One says, ``GOP Measure Slams New York Times for Bank Story." The other says, ``China May Fine News Media to Limit Coverage."

I would simply note that the Chinese Government appears to have something more in common with our administration in addition to their desire to undercut American wages through trade agreements with slave and cheap labor coming out of China.

I would note that both the Chinese Communist Government and our own administration appears to be interested in doing almost anything in order to prevent legitimate news organizations from reporting activities of the people who govern each country.

Now, I do not know the details of The New York Times revelations with respect to banking transactions, but I do know that the administration and some of their supporters in Congress have been extremely interested in embarrassing The New York Times

since The New York Times uncovered a number of other activities that were being conducted by the administration which, in my judgment, are illegal, and those have nothing to do with the banking transactions that we saw referenced the other day.

So I just thought it might be of interest to note the similarity between these two headlines, one an administration from supposedly a democratic country and another a government from a communist country, both of whom seem to be eager to clamp down as much as possible on their journalistic

critics. I would hope that those similarities would decline in the future.